

# Infield Problem Is M'Graw's Big Worry

With Strong Pitching and Catching Staffs and Capable Outfield Giants' Leader Is Chiefly Concerned.

NEW YORK, March 31.—Just what the makeup of the New York Giants will be when the 1920 National league race gets well under way is somewhat of a puzzle.

Manager John McGraw, who spent most of the winter in Cuba, figured out a number of player deals to strengthen the New York club. But Jaw's ideas went for nothing. His brother managers couldn't see Jaw with a field glass in the matter of lending him assistance in building up a winner this year. And money-odds of it—failed to snare such stars as Horasby and Maranville. So the completion of the Giants' infield in particular, is a matter yet to be settled. As this article is written reports from San Antonio suggest McGraw to the effect that he has given up hope of making deals; that the Giants will be molded from the material at hand. At this time it appears that the Giant outfield will remain intact, that the pitching staff will be the same as that which carried the brunt of the work last season, unless some of the young pitchers prove that they are ready for the big show, and that the catching staff will be made up of members of the team whose names are familiar to the fans. With fourers—Snyder, Gonzales, McCarty and Earl Smith—the New York club has the strongest array of backstoppers in either league at the present time. However, one of this quartet of winded artists may figure in the trade.

### Strong Pitching Staffs.

The Giant pitchers—Tommy Nehf, Benton, Douglas, Barnum and Winters, who were the regulars at the close of last season—are considered just about the strongest staff in either league by McGraw. In addition to these hurlers the Giant manager has a crop of youngsters. Jimmy Garton, a right-hander from Tulsa, Okla.; Clarence Stauffer, another right-hander from the semipro ranks in Pennsylvania; "Rosy Bill" Ryan, from Holy Cross, and Reynolds Kelly, also a right-hander and a brother of First Baseman George Kelly, are the likeliest looking rookies in the Giant squad.

McGraw isn't worrying about his pitching staff. He should worry about a staff that ranks with those of the Reds and Cubs as the best in the National league. But the infield problem is a problem for sure.

With the retirement of Hal Chase, who apparently thought with the game for good, though no explanation of various rumors regarding the reason for his retirement has been made, McGraw has found himself forced to depend on George Kelly to fill the bill at the initial corner. Kelly is a capable and aggressive youngster and made such a favorable impression as a first baseman with the Rochester club that McGraw promptly grabbed him again after having sent him to Rochester in the deal that brought Catcher Earl Smith to New York. It is believed that Kelly will fill the bill, though filling Chase's shoes in any department of the game is a man's size task.

Second base may and may not be cared for by the veteran Larry Doyle. Larry has admittedly seen his best days. He is slower about by far than he used to be and his batting eye has dimmed considerably. Yet McGraw may have to fall back on him unless one of the Giant rookies comes through with a big surprise—a thing that isn't being expected along Broadway.

### Fletcher at Short.

Archie Fletcher will be seen playing the short field for the Giants, as of old Fletcher is still a dependable player and appears to have several good seasons left in his system.

Frank Frisch, the youngster from Fordham university, who broke in with the Giants last season and played third base after Zimmerman was suspended, will fill the shoes of the Great Zim, unless McGraw signs a deal for a third baseman, in which case Frisch may be moved to second base and Doyle used as a pinch hitter. Frisch is fast and a speed merchant on the bags. He can hit from both sides of the plate, too, and New York fans look upon him as a player of great promise. Zim is through as a Giant. That much is settled, apparently, for all time.

Looking at the Giants through a long distance telescope and from an unbiased angle, we see a picture of a horse with a decided brunette complexion. They are going to enter the 1920 campaign, from present indications, well fixed in pitching, catching and outfielding. But the vital cogs on the infield may not work smoothly, and unless they do New York's chances of replacing the Reds as champions of the league are going to be almost as rosy as the lining of your glove. It is the belief of the writer that the Giants will make a hard fight for a first division berth and that they have a chance of finishing as a good third. They might do better should they take one of the spasms that helped the Boston Braves to sweep down the home stretch in front of the field in 1914. But the come-from-behind fever seldom proves as invigorating as it did in the case of Stallings' team.

### COLLEGE BASEBALL.

At Raleigh, N. C.—North Carolina State college 5, Guilford college 1.  
At Athens, Ga.—Oglethorpe university 1, University of Georgia 6.



**LEFTY WILLIAMS.**  
While Claude P. (for pitcher) Williams was helping Eddie Clotte hurt the Chicago team to the American league pennant last summer, critics said that Williams was booked to join the hall of fame as one of the truly great southpaws of the day. He deserved the praise. He won 23 games for the Sox, while Clotte was grabbing 23. Williams lost only 11 games. Then, when talk about the world series started the dopsters were inclined to disagree on the part Lefty would play in the classic. His inability to beat the Indians in the league campaign was pointed out to show his weakness against some opposition.

At the time I didn't take either side, but I felt—and stated—that his showing would make or break the Sox in the series. The prediction came true. Had Williams held up the outcome might have been different, despite Clotte's failure to deliver. Williams and Kerr might have turned the tables.

### CARPENTER ELECTED.

PRINCETON, N. J., March 31.—C. C. J. Carpenter, of Augusta, Ga., Tuesday was elected head of next year's Princeton wrestling team.

Joe Stecher is quite the busiest heavyweight champion the wrestling game ever has known. It was always his habit to accept any match in view, and he has not undergone a change of mind in this respect since winning the title. One week recently he engaged in three contests, winning all of them in his usual smooth, unburied fashion. In the first of these three matches he defeated Fred Dwyer, in the second he flattened Wladek Zhyzsko, and in the third he made short work of Joe Malcewicz.

Fred Luderus will have to battle Gene Paulette for the first base job on the Phillies this spring. Paulette has youth in his favor, but Ludus's ability to hit long drives may win the place for him.

The Cardinals have signed a St. Louis semi-pro catcher named Charley Roth. This makes two Roths, a Ruth and a Rath for the major league box scores of the coming season.



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